

DC GAZETTE

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MAY 1976



Bulletin Populaire/LNS

DC EYE

WE may be getting on the wrong trains but our random check of ridership of the subway indicates that roughly two-thirds of the passengers are white. Wait until Doug Moore finds that out.

IT WON'T HELP you much if you get mugged tonight, but it is reassuring to learn from the FBI that there are at least 17 major cities with higher crime rates than DC. Those cities that deserve the title of crime capital more than this long-abused town include the following:

Oakland, Calif: 73% more crime per thousand than DC
St. Louis: 65% more
Honolulu: 51% more
Atlanta: 43% more
Phoenix: 39% more
Portland, Oreg: 39% more

These other cities also have crime rates 10% or more greater than DC: Baltimore, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, Newark, San Francisco and Seattle.

WE'VE COME TO CONSIDER the local Democratic party as about as effective as the mayor's Consumer Affairs Office. So we approach the May primaries with not much expectation or excitement. Both the Open Party slate and the Unity '76 slate of candidates for national committeemen and committeewomen leave us cold and their plans to send non-committed delegates to the convention seem largely designed to prevent DC Democratic voters from helping to choose the nominee for president. With Fred Harris out of the running we are going to cast our vote for Morris Udall, and, on the basis of a somewhat better selection of candidates, for the Unity '76 slate for the Democratic Central Committee.

the great earthquake struck. According to "The San Francisco Earthquake," by Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts, Giannini -- unlike other bankers who rushed their deposits to safety aboard boats in San Francisco Bay and elsewhere -- took the \$80,000 deposits of his Bank of Italy on a wagon to the outskirts of town where he proceeded to loan it to people who wanted to rebuild. Said Giannini, "If our banks are closed until November they may as well stay closed. In November there will be no city or people left to serve. Today is the time they need a bank. The time for doing business is right now. All I need are a couple of barrels and a long plank stretched between and a couple of planks to act as a table. Over this I want a Bank of Italy sign. Any man who wants to rebuild can come and get money with no trouble. If a customer wants \$5,000 he gets half. He'll have to make do with that. If give everybody all they want, there won't be enough to go around. Everybody needs a chance. People have got to work -- and work hard." We mentioned this tale to a friend of ours the other day and he commented, "Well at least that was one banker who didn't believe in redlining." Giannini's Bank of Italy grew into the Bank of America, one of the largest financial institutions in the world.

AMONG THE TRADITIONAL RESULTS of building subways has been a deterioration of bus service. One of the first signs of this is Metro's current attempt to dramatically reduce all night bus operations in the city. If Metro has its way, nearly a half million passenger trips yearly will be eliminated. For instance, Metro wants to eliminate service from midnight to six o'clock on all 30's, 40's and 50's, effectively eliminating all night bus service for Near Southeast. The per-passenger subsidy for these trips is less than 50¢ compared with Metro's current loss of \$10-\$15 a rider on the subway and a probable loss of around \$2 a rider when the subway is completed. Given the difference in the ethnic and economic character of those who use the bus for late-night service and those who ride the subway, Metro's proposed action looks like fertile ground for a law suit.

One reason that bus service deteriorates with the arrival of a subway is that subways are constructed along the most profitable bus routes. Thus the subway system drains from income-producing lines of the bus system leaving it in worse shape that it was before.

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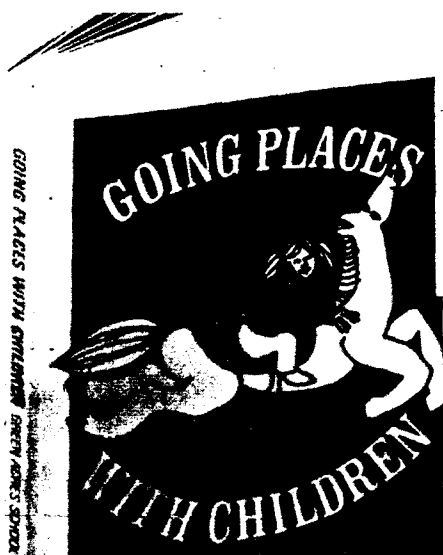
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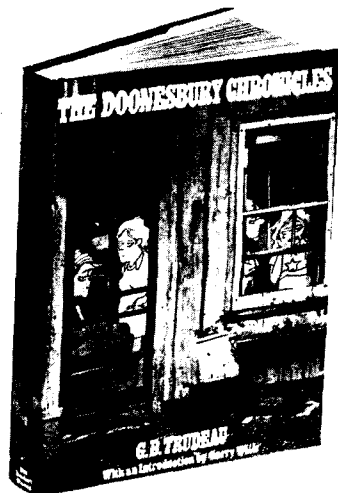
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PATRICIA M. NESBITT & NEIL N. SELDMAN

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F. Engels, *The Housing Question*, 1872

THE sewerless toilet is usually thought of as an alternative to the traditional five-gallon-flush commode only for rural homes. Here in DC, however, we have been finding that compost toilets can also be important for urban areas. In the face of tough water quality standards and the increasing costs of labor, energy, and chemicals, it makes both economic and ecologic sense to consider alternatives to centralized wastewater treatment.

In the Washington metropolitan area alone, it will cost two billion dollars to build advanced sewage treatment facilities and seventy million dollars in annual operating costs. If one million biological toilets were installed instead, it would cost about \$800 million as an initial outlay with the annual maintenance expenses being minimal. Only about 6.8% of the energy requirement of the Blue Plains treatment plant would be needed, and about 365 million pounds of compost would be available for local use annually. Most importantly, the units would accomplish what the super-technology centralized systems can not: they would keep wastes and chemicals out of our drinking water, rivers and soils.

This year it will cost the average suburban household about \$230 in sewer and water fees to maintain the yet uncompleted treatment system, representing roughly a four-fold increase in rates since 1974. District households will pay an average of \$125 this year if the proposed rate increase goes into effect. But no matter how much we pay the latest information indicates that clean water for our homes and adequate waste treatment cannot be insured. One reason for this, as a recent U.S. General Accounting Office report pointed out, is that consulting engineers generally do not guarantee the design, performance, and cost estimates of treatment plants. The GAO found that none of the projects surveyed met performance requirements, some because of faulty design. Cost estimates were surpassed by an average of 27% nationwide. The GAO also claimed that the Environmental Protection Agency has not been doing its job of enforcing effluent quality standards, eligibility guidelines, and regulations requiring full consideration of alternative technologies.

As a consequence of this mismanagement, we will continue to pay not only with our hard-to-come-by-cash, but also with risks to our public health. Last year EPA found that the drinking water of 79 cities tested, including the water in the Washington area, contained cancer-induc-

ing chemicals resulting from the interaction of chlorine with organic matter in the wastewater. Despite massive investments for advanced wastewater treatment, chlorine is still needed to "purify" our water before it is released to our waterways.

A task force headed by Ralph Nader recently concluded that after the United States had spent three and a half billion dollars in a fifteen year clean-up effort, the level of filth had not been reduced in a single major body of water. Even more recently, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that the \$342 billion needed to equip all municipal water and sewer systems with advanced treatment is simply not available from Federal funds, which up to this point have been the source of 75% of all construction funds. Even if the funds were available, the technology it would purchase is wasteful of resources, costly to operate and unreliable.

A look at the technology being built for the DC area will indicate why our problems will be increasing in the years ahead, and at a greater pace than in the past.

The upgrading and expansion of area treatment plants to meet tighter standards and to handle the increased waste load involves additional facilities and new technologies that are both energy intensive and untested on a large scale basis. When the expansion of the District's Blue Plains plant is completed, (now expected to be in January 1979) it will consume approximately 321 million KWH of electricity per year to treat the sewage, 3.7 million gallons of fuel oil to incinerate the sludge, and 85,000 gallons of gasoline to haul incinerator ash to landfills. In addition, thousands of gallons of fuels and thousands of tons of chemicals will be required for treatment operations. It also takes 67,600 KWH per day just to pump the wastes to Blue Plains. Finally, 64,500 KWH per day is used to supply the water to D.C. residents. This is enough energy to supply over 41,000 homes with needed electricity.

Expected water quality standards may not be achieved as the new nitrogen removal process has never been

proven reliable at large scale operation. If it does not perform well, a two-step process will be used even though the essential chemical methanol may not be obtainable.

In addition, Blue Plains' 309-million-gallons-per-day capacity is not enough for the two million area residents served, and a new 60 million gallon a day plant will be constructed in Dickerson, Maryland. There, a "breakpoint chlorination" process is envisioned, requiring 37.5 tons of chlorine a day. To accommodate the growth of Virginia suburbs, a 10-million-gallon plant in Occoquan, Virginia will be installed, utilizing another exotic nitrogen removal technology called "ion exchange."

The ironic side of all this technical wizardry is that regardless of how well the treatment works, the overall river quality is not expected to improve significantly. In Virginia, for instance, about 60% of the water pollution comes from urban and agricultural runoff, both controllable through zoning, conservation and erosion control. These problems are the direct result of a water policy, following the advice of an engineering firm in 1969, which put emphasis on treatment of wastewater in one large physical chemical plant rather than paying attention to natural erosion and runoff problems created by residential development.

The question arises about why three different nitrogen removal technologies are being installed when the water is essentially the same throughout the river basin. A little digging reveals that the same engineering firm is responsible for the design of all three plants and that it has proprietary interests in technologies. It is fully aware that the experimental testing of them show poor operations at design capacity and an unreliable effluent quality.

The cost of these new facilities are staggering. For Blue Plains, the expansion and upgrading will cost \$1.5 billion; for Dickerson, nearly \$400 million; and for Occoquan, \$82 million. These high costs have met with approval since federal money is available for construction grants. However, once the plants are completed, the locality must raise the money to cover high operating costs. For Blue Plains, this is expected to be \$56 million each year, a full \$36.7 million up from the current year. The largest components of this jump, energy and labor, are subject to continual inflationary pressures, and thus

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1739 Connecticut Ave NW (#2)
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lock us into spiraling outlays in the future.

Sixty-four percent of the increase in water and sewer rates facing D.C. residents this year is to cover \$1.6 million for increased costs of energy and chemicals, and \$5.8 million for labor increases. Like other utility rate structures, the proposed rate hike is regressive in that it weighs more heavily on small users than large users. Rates for small users will rise 65% for water and 100% for sewer, while large users will increase by just 31% and 66%.

As the sewage treatment improves in removing pollutants from the water, more sludge is produced. Sludge is a thick slurry, a mass of gooey solids and liquids in varying proportions. Currently, Blue Plains removes 600 tons of sludge from our wastewater, but with improved treatment, some 1400-1500 tons will be produced each day. Until the sludge is incinerated as currently planned, it must be trenched in landfills in both Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, communities that already have had their share of law suits, moratoriums and bonding difficulties over the sludge issue.

Technology for alternative treatment of sludge is not promising. For the past 40 years, Milwaukee's sludge has been heat-dried to produce a popular soil conditioner, Milorganite. But the operation will be halted soon because the cost of fuel has made the process too expensive. At Blue Plains, a different dehydration process has been unsuccessful. In some communities sludge is in high demand for use as a soil conditioner: Littleton, Colorado, for example, has an ideal climate for air-drying digested sludge and residents simply drive up to load their pick-up for a modest fee.

Sludge can be land-treated, either naturally decomposed by bacteria, or trenched onto the land as is currently being done with Chicago's sludge. However, dangerous heavy metals in the sludge may contaminate the soil and could render the food grown on it inedible.

All of these troublesome problems would not exist if we did not contaminate our drinking water with our wastes in the first place. As Harold Leich says in a recent article in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists:

"To a visitor from another planet it would seem incredible that human beings who are intelligent enough for space travel solve their prob-

(C) *Institute for Local Self-Reliance 1976. Patricia Nesbitt and Neil Seldman are with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and are currently working on a design for a sewerless city.*

lems of personal hygiene by putting their wastes into the public drinking water and then spend billions in futile efforts to restore the water to the original condition."

There are alternatives to this never-ending spiral which can relieve some of the pressures on taxpayers, on the treatment facilities, and on the waterways. Efforts ought to be made to reduce the size of the waste load.

First of all, as many as 95% of our sewer pipes leak, allowing rainwater to seep into the sewer system. This creates perhaps as much as 50 million gallons a day added flow to Blue Plains where it is treated unnecessarily. Fixing these sewer lines could be accomplished once and for all at fractions of what it costs to upgrade the treatment facilities that are needed to treat precisely this extra flow.

Even more valuable than this over the long run is the movement toward a "sewerless society." Sewerless toilets offer a promising alternative for the future and theoretically could eliminate the problems of large centralized sewerage systems altogether. While we cannot turn the clock back on Blue Plains and the millions of conventional toilets throughout the area, this alternative provides a potential solution for wastewater needs for future development.

The average American uses 100 gallons of water each day, a full 50% of which is used in flush toilets. Sewerless toilets would cut the water needs of new houses in half, thus also reduce the need for added treatment capacity, and virtually eliminate the need for enlargement of sludge handling capacity. Also, by saving our drinking water for drinking rather than using it to carry away our wastes, we need not chlorinate it. Of course there would still be a need to treat other waters used in a household, known as grey water, which could easily be handled in the conventional ways.

There is already an array of waterless toilets on the market. The compost toilet is an ancient idea though it has only recently emerged

ON April 8, an Environmental Protection Agency report stated that the Dickerson, Md., plant "would require an excess federal expenditure of approximately \$250 million in capital costs and would unnecessarily discharge a sewage effluent above the major (drinking) water supply intake for the Washington metropolitan area. In addition, the proposed project is energy-intensive and requires an excessive commitment of resources" before an area-wide sewage plant is completed.

Based on this report, Russell Train, EPA Administrator, announced that his agency is now opposed to any plant at Dickerson, throwing local officials suffering under sewage/housing moratoriums into a frenzy. Train was told by one state natural resources official that there are not enough troops in Maryland to make Prince Georges County accept that decision. "He better have some troops of his own," the official added.

Suggestions of citizen dissent is ironic as citizen groups have been actively trying to ban the plant at Dickerson.

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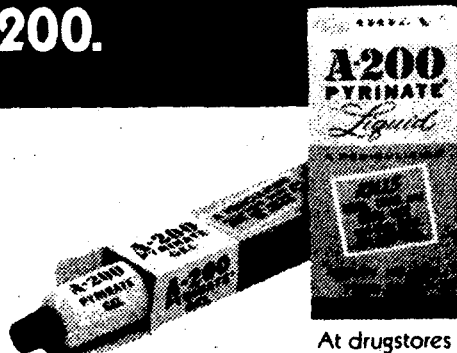
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At drugstores

as an alternative to water-carrying toilets in the United States. Maine, California, and Oregon have approved its use, as have many individual counties and localities throughout the country. The composting process is used to degrade naturally the wastes in a container below the toilet, leaving a dry, earthy substance called compost. In some units, a heater is included which regulates and speeds the process. Numerous models are available, ranging in price from \$500 to \$1300, although none are currently being mass produced. Designs are available for models that can be built for less than \$200. A properly installed unit needs little maintenance, consisting of removal of the odorless compost every year or two depending on use. The only drawbacks are that they require space, an average of 120 cubic feet, and that some units are difficult to install in houses not specifically designed for their use.

Aerobic tanks are another type of sewerless, but not waterless, toilet. They are similar to the septic tank system except that they rely on an electric motor to mix air into the tank. They offer the advantages of being more reliable in areas of cold climates, heavy rainfall, and heavy clay soils, or in short, in areas where the traditional septic tanks have failed. They are currently being tested for their applicability for rural areas by the Appalachian Regional Commission in Boyd County, Kentucky.

Incineration toilets cause the least disruption of our current habits. They have operated well in thousands of vacation homes, house boats, and other remote locations. They work by incinerating wastes on the spot, leaving a dry ash for disposal. They cost from \$400 to \$600, but require an average of 3.7 KWH per person per day, and thus are unsound from an energy conservation standpoint. Yet, the widespread use of incineration toilets in the Washington area, even though it would require five times the energy used at Blue Plains, could still be cheaper in dollar terms than centralized treatment technology.

The closed-loop oil flush toilet, using a recyclable mineral oil, is also available. The flushing oil carries the waste to a gravity separation tank where the oil floats to the top and the wastes sink to the bottom. The oil is then recirculated to the commode. The wastes are periodically removed, and can be incinerated or held for later treatment. These have been successfully tested and can be installed in existing toilets without difficulty.

Not all sewerless toilets have been wholly successful. The low cost bacteria toilet, recently tested in Fairfax County, Virginia and Montgomery County, Maryland has not performed well and had to be removed from test homes.

These and other in-houses systems need further development if they are to become a large scale alternative to the centralized waste treatment plant. So far, the development and use of sewerless systems has been fostered by small manufacturing firms, small community and ecologically oriented research groups and innovative individuals. Careful attention will be given to the possibility of

a sewerless society this month at a conference at Portland State University in Oregon, sponsored by Rodale Press, RAIN Magazine, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. These efforts, although significant and essential, are limited by the scope of their influence and capability to affect change on a national scale.

What is needed is a serious commitment by local and national governments to experiment with existing models of alternative toilets to solve the problems of providing entire communities with waterless commodes, and to resolve many of the technical difficulties now facing sewerless toilets. In the spirit of the Water Quality Act, the Environmental Protection Agency should pursue development of alternative technologies which can help "restore and enhance the biological integrity of the nation's waters." Local governments must explore the sewerless alternative to protect the environmental and financial well-being of our communities.

Anything short of a wide ranging research and development program will delay the advent of sewerless toilets. Meanwhile, we will continue to pay dearly for high technology waste treatment processes without knowing for sure if we will have clean water in the future.

The sewerless toilet is a technology that is appropriate for today's needs. In an age of increasing scarcity of capital, energy, and material resources, it makes sense. Sewerless toilets will save drinking water for drinking, cut water pollution, and recycle wastes back to the earth according to natural cycles. They eliminate the need for chemicals now being used to destroy nitrogen rich

WHILE DC presses ahead with its impractical recycling plant, Somerville Mass. has started using two-compartment refuse trucks in a city-wide campaign to promote curbside separation. Somerville residents are being asked to separate their garbage into three piles: flat paper, cans and clear glass bottles and everything else. According to Environmental Protection Agency officials, a surprising 58% of the city's households have cooperated in the first six weeks of the plan. Planners did not expect to reach that level of participation for at least a year. So great was the response that two special trucks used for collecting the paper and cans and clear glass could not keep up at first.

The recyclable elements of this garbage are worth \$25 a ton to the city: \$12.50 from the sale of the material and a \$12.50 savings from having one less ton to dispose of. It has been estimated that recycling can save the city a total of \$600,000 a year with just a 30% participation rate from residents.

So far the program has been hampered only by local junk collectors picking up the recyclable material just ahead of the city trucks. To curb this practice, city sanitation workers take down registration numbers of private trucks with an eye towards eventual prosecution.

wastes, and can reduce the need for energy intensive manufacturing processes for nitrogen fertilizers. In light of the great financial and ecological benefits that could be achieved, major efforts to develop and provide incentives for this sewerless solution should receive top priority.



FOLLOWING VETOES by the mayor, the City Council last month compromised two bills it had previously passed. It voted to approve a lowering to age 18 of the age of majority except for buying liquor. The God lobby had insisted on this change. The council also passed a consumer protection procedures act after eliminating a residency requirement and city council confirmation of top officials of the Consumer Protection Office, which the mayor found objectionable.

THE RECENT ISSUE of Mass Transit magazine includes an interesting article on Toronto's mass transit system. Toronto has a subway but support for extension of the project has waned with rising costs. Toronto, however, also owns more than 300 street cars operating over a 46 mile system. Says Mass Transit "The streetcars are considered indispensable for downtown service." The magazine quotes Paul Godfrey, Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto, as saying "Toronto is going to be the most modern street car city. You have to look at the money question and it comes out LRV [Light Rail Vehicle]. It would be nice to build subways everywhere, but streetcars are the less expensive way and almost as comfortable and efficient. And you can get them into operation quicker." Says R. J. Bower, the planning commissioner for Metropolitan Toronto, "The heavy subway demand has already been met for the central business district. Streetcars offer a lower passenger volume, lower cost and are quicker to put into place. They offer flexibility."

The magazine also reports: "After the remaining five or so miles of subway yet to be built are completed, Godfrey believes Toronto will end all plans for future subway construction. 'It costs \$45 million per mile to build a subway,' he explained, 'and the cost is going up daily. We will be going more and more to streetcars, hopefully in their own right of way. That is the vehicle of the future. He said Toronto had recently purchased 200 new street cars which are now in operation and carry 18,000 passengers an hour in peak periods. 'They are much better than buses, the maintenance costs are lower and there is a better availability of electricity.'"

As a point of comparison, Metro Phase I carries only 1700 passengers an hour.



Uncle Sam's Landlord

DAVID ROTHMAN
(c) Pacific News Service

ONE of the people who best exemplifies Washington's "old boy" network sits neither in the White House, the Cabinet nor the Congress.

His name is Charles E. Smith: the federal government's largest supplier of office space — and a good example of how Washington insiders operate.

A small, charming Russian immigrant in his 70s, Smith is now more or less retired and lives much of the time outside Washington. But his empire and friends — who include a slew of notables ranging from Senator Abraham Ribicoff and Supreme Court Justice William Brennan — remain an integral part of life here.

Twenty-three buildings maintained by Charles E. Smith Management, one of his companies, house some 16,000 federal workers — more than half a Pentagon full.

Smith's buildings and those owned wholly or partly by his business associates collected a quarter of the Washington-area rent paid by the federal government in 1974. Smith Management alone took in over half that — roughly \$15 million in taxpayer money — from its government leases.

Drive through the fashionable business district near the White House and you will pass the boxy-buildings of Smith and his friends. Park your car and your money will quite likely end up in the coffers of Kingdon Gould and Dominic Antonelli, banking and real estate associates of Smith who own the giant PMI parking empire.

Read your Washington Post. Although the front page has run exposes of alleged improprieties at Madison National Bank, which Smith helped found and which has financed some of his ventures, real estate editor John Willmann has extolled Smith's projects in his own section. Willmann owns \$1300 of stock in Madison National Bank, having bought in when it was founded in 1963.

Turn to the Post Style section. Humor columnist Art Buchwald invested \$24,000 in Smith property in Virginia. He and a host of other newsmen — ranging from political columnists Evans & Novak to Washington staffers of the Manchester Guardian and Kansas City Star — are Smith's tenants in an office building near the White House.

Cross the Potomac into a hilly section of Arlington. One past investor in Charles Smith's Key Building there — a 12-story high-rise occupied by the CIA — was Senator Ribicoff, the Connecticut Democrat who sat on, and now chairs, the Senate Government Operations Committee that helps oversee the General Services Administration. The GSA finds and rents most government office space. Other Key Building investors have included Justice Brennan, Judge David Bazelon and the late federal judge Simon Sobeloff of Baltimore.

A long investigation has uncovered no proof that Smith's contacts with Ribicoff and others have led to his federal contracts. (Nor is the main issue whether the federal government has gotten a good deal in renting from Smith. Rather, it is whether the government got the best deal. The difference between good and best can add up to millions; the GSA is now paying landlords all over the country about \$375 million in annual rent.)

The investigation has revealed, however, that Smith has prospered as Uncle Sam's landlord while:

- o making large political contributions to influential Republicans and Democrats;
- o enjoying helpful decisions from the GSA;
- o bringing well connected people into his real estate partnerships.

The Smiths — including son Robert Smith and son-in-law Robert Kogod, both now partners — have portrayed themselves simply as public-spirited contributors who act as a family in "virtually all things that are charitable. . . community, civic, political."

But the Democratic Smiths and Kogod gave at least \$70,000 to Richard Nixon in his 1972 campaign. They each gave \$3000 to Ribicoff's 1974 reelection campaign. And in 1970 Smith spent \$900 on then-Florida congressman William Cramer's unsuccessful race for the Senate. Cramer, a conservative Republican, was ranking member of the House Public Works Committee — which approves funds for federal building programs.

Charles E. Smith amassed most of his tax-supported empire during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, after meeting a Who's Who of politicians and judges in Washington.

Through charity work, he met the wife of then-US Court of Appeals Judge David Bazelon. Through the judge, Smith met Ribicoff; Arthur Goldberg, who served on the Supreme Court and later as UN Ambassador; Abe Fortas, an intimate of Lyndon Johnson and a Supreme Court Justice before resigning after conflict-of-interest allegations; and Justice Brennan.

In each case, with these men and others, Smith showed a knack for turning powerful friends into investors.

While Fortas and Goldberg apparently never put any money into Smith property leased by the GSA, Brennan, from 1964-67, held a 2.16% limited partnership in the same CIA-occupied Key Building in Virginia that Ribicoff helped back.

The case of Ribicoff especially illustrates the financial, social and political ties that Smith has cultivated with official Washington.

From 1963-68 Ribicoff had a 2.88% limited partnership interest — with \$20,000 — in the Key Building. Smith in 1964 won the lease on the building, at more than \$400,000 annual

rent, and began collecting the next year.

Contrary to its own instructions, the lease did not list the building's partners. And rather than naming Ribicoff, Arlington County partnership records named a "David Kotkin, Trustee," a past law partner of Ribicoff, in his place.

The lease also violated its own Paragraph 11 prohibition against renting from congressmen unless they were involved in incorporated companies. Smith and Ribicoff were involved in a partnership, not a corporation.

Paragraph 11 is based on Section 431 of Title 18 of the US Code, which provides fines of up to \$3000 for violations. But because the law's statute of limitations is five years, and Ribicoff withdrew from the partnership more than seven years ago, he could no longer be prosecuted.

According to Ribicoff, a capital gains tax cancelled out any profits he made on the Key Building. But he continued investing in Smith's non-government-leased property. And in 1973, when Ribicoff set up a "blind" trust for himself after reporters began questioning his financial holdings, the trust did not sell his shares in Smith's property.

The trust is run by a bank on whose board Smith's son Robert sits. Estimates of the value of Ribicoff's interests turned over to the trust have ranged from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

In Arlington, some other well-tied investors profit from Smith's GSA-rented buildings at Crystal City. A GSA official, in fear of losing his job if he were named, questioned whether the government got the best deal when it signed a \$60-million-plus lease for more than 720,000 square feet there. The GSA didn't publicly advertise its desire to lease office space, he said. Nor did it advertise in 12 of its other 19 leases with Smith.

The Smiths have claimed they lured millions of dollars of federal business to Crystal City because they offered low prices. Their critics, however, point out that one of the Crystal City partners, Alexander M. Lankler, is a former GSA employee who introduced the Smiths to Lawson Knott (soon to become GSA Administrator) and other GSA officials when Smith was seeking leases for Crystal City. When Knott left GSA in 1969, Lankler helped him finance a \$6 million Washington officebuilding. Lankler was later forced to resign as chairman of the Maryland Republican Committee for falsifying financial reports from a "Salute to Ted Agnew" dinner.

Smith himself replied in late 1974 to allegations of impropriety this way: "You know GSA like we do. Nobody could influence them. It has to go right down the line, all the way."

But Smith, a stranger when he first came to Washington from New York in the 1940s, has come a long way since first befriending the powerful. Smith once had trouble arranging sewer connections because, as he puts it, he didn't know the "right people." Today the "right people" are Smith's good friends.

TOPICS

RECENT Department of Labor surveys show a growing number of workers in the U.S. are switching over to a three-day, 12-hour-per-day work week.

The Labor Department reports 186,000 persons worked a three day full time week in 1975, as compared to 146,000 workers in 1973.

While this may not seem like much, the Equitable Trust Company, one of the nation's largest insurance companies, reports it switched over to the three day work week just last year.

Equitable says its employees worked either the day or night shifts, with 40 minutes for lunch and two 20-minute breaks. The company reports since the changeover, employee absenteeism and turnover have declined considerably.

THE Central Intelligence Agency -- despite recent disclosures of extensive illegal activities abroad -- is reportedly planning not only to step up its covert interventions in foreign countries, but also to continue actively supporting right wing dictatorships.

The Chicago Sun Times quotes former CIA Director William Colby as saying the agency has plans to drastically increase its secret foreign interventions over the next decade because of what Colby terms "totalitarian developments" abroad.

Colby, according to the newspaper, estimated that covert operations -- which account for a mere three percent of the CIA budget -- are expected to rise in the 1980's to take up 30 percent of the agency's budget.

Colby -- in an unusually frank statement -- also indicated the CIA will continue to support right wing authoritarian dictatorships, saying he sees no "scandal in certain alliances."

The Sun Times says Colby justified supporting right wing dictators in the future...(but) with the communists, the future offers no hope."

A SOON-to-be-released study by the Department of Agriculture concludes the Federal Food Stamp Program spurs more business activity than any other type of government or federal aid.

The study, conducted by Doctor Alden Manchester, of the Department's Economic Research Service, found that every dollar in food stamps given out produces \$6 in new business activity.

Agriculture Department economists calculate the \$2.7 billion in food stamp bonuses handed out in 1974 produced \$16.8 billion in additional business activity.

U.S. TREASURY Secretary William Simon has recommended that corporate gifts to colleges and universities be based on whether the schools' teaching policies are favorable or unfavorable toward the free-enterprise system.

The Chronical of Higher Education reports that Simon spelled out this view in a speech to the New York

chapter of The Public Relations Society of America.

Simon, the U.S.'s top economic official, is quoted as saying that unless business leaders steer corporate gifts to colleges and universities away from those critical of free enterprise "the free-enterprise system will continue to finance its own destruction."

AMONG the thousands of new crimes defined by the proposed new federal law known as "Senate Bill One" are tough provisions dealing with people who mess around with Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear.

The National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice reports that Section 458-A of S.B.1 imposes a 6-month jail sentence and up to a \$100,000 fine on anyone who uses Woodsy Owl's or Smokey Bear's likeness without permission from the government.

In case you have any doubts about who Woodsy Owl is, here is how S.B.1 defines the cheerful mascot: "The term Woodsy Owl means the name and representation of a fanciful owl who wears slacks (forest green when colored), a belt (brown when colored), and a robin hood style hat (forest green when colored) with a feather (red when colored), and who furthers the slogan: 'Give a Hoot. Don't Pollute'." Smokey is also carefully defined.

COUNTERSPY Magazine reports that there are numerous indications that the National Caucus of Labor Committees -- a self-described leftist labor organizing group -- is in fact secretly funded by right-wing or U.S. intelligence agency money.

The current edition of Counterspy quotes two West German newspapers as reporting recently that former CIA director William Colby admitted to Congress last spring that the agency has been giving the NCLC \$90,000 a year. The two German newspapers, however, do not print any hard evidence about Colby's testimony which reportedly was made during closed-door briefings.

In the meantime, Counterspy reports that the NCLC group must be getting money from some undisclosed sources because the group operates deeply in the red. according to the magazine, NCLC chapters around the world operate at a \$1.1 million annual deficit, yet somehow manage to maintain a worldwide telex communications network.

NORTHWESTERN University, in what may be a first for a major university, is offering a full credit course on unidentified flying objects.

The course reportedly covers such subjects as the sighting of discs in daylight, the identification of strange lights in the night sky, the photography of U.F.O.'s, and evaluating alleged human contacts with U.F.O. occupants.

The course is being taught by Doctor J. Allen Hynek, an astronomy professor and former consultant to

the Air Force's official U.F.O. study, "Operation Blue Book."

Hynek says the course also examines in detail how the news media handles U.F.O. stories.

FORMER White House aide Charles Colson says that, despite President Gerald Ford's repeated denials, a secret deal was worked out between Ford and Richard Nixon concerning the Nixon pardon.

In an interview with the Boston Herald American, Colson alleges that there was an implicit understanding between Nixon and Ford that Nixon would not resign from office unless he was assured of a pardon by his successor.

Colson states: "One of Mr. Nixon's aides told me the day before Mr. Nixon resigned that the details, including the pardons, were being worked out."

Colson adds that the original agreement called for Ford to pardon all of Nixon's chief advisors along with Nixon himself; however, according to Colson, this plan was later abandoned by President Ford "because of the storm that blew up, he stopped with Nixon."

ALTHOUGH there are fewer children in the United States today than five years ago, a larger percentage of them are poor, according to a study by the National Council of Organizations for Children and Youth.

The study concludes that one in every six children in America resides with a family living below the federally-defined poverty level.

The study also finds that the black children are much more likely to come from poverty backgrounds than whites, and that the infant mortality rate among blacks is twice as high as that for whites.

NO less than three former high-level Republican officials have been hired by foreign interests to promote the cause of the Concorde in the United States.

Air France, the French national airline, has commissioned former Secretary of State William Rogers and his firm, Rogers & Wells, to represent the SST in the U.S.

Former Environmental Protection Agency director William Ruckelshaus has been hired by the British government to plead the Concorde case.

In the meantime, former New York Senator Charles Goodell -- and his law firm of Hydeman, Mason & Goodell -- are on the payroll of the French government for representing French Concorde interests in the U.S.

A UNIVERSITY of Washington researcher suggests that police in the United States have been able to shoot down civilians with virtual immunity from punishment.

Psychotherapist Doctor Arthur Kobler reports that in a study of 1500 instances where civilians were killed by cops during the 1960's, only three cases -- or one fifth of one percent -- resulted in criminal punishment of the officers.

Doctor Kobler, quoted in the current edition of Human Behavior magazine, says he believes up to 60 percent of these civilian killings by police occurred under "questionable" conditions.

He says that at the time they were killed, 57 percent of the victims were involved in either no crime at all, in misdemeanors, or in crimes against property. Doctor Kobler says at least a quarter of the victims had no weapons.

NEIGHBORHOOD

UP 16TH STREET

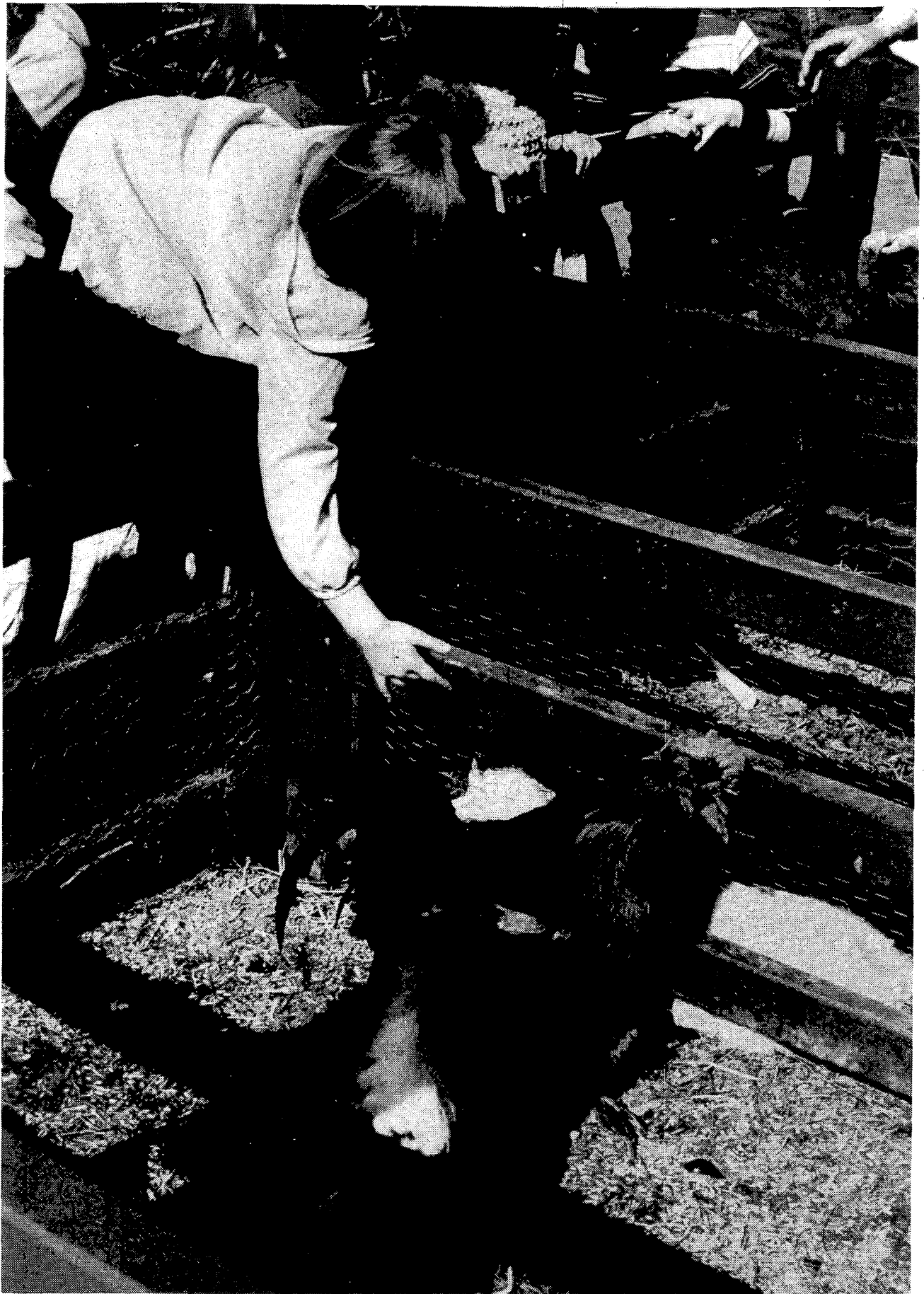
EVELYN Wrin, a neighborhood commissioner in the Upper 16th Street area, has pointed out in letters to the City Council and Metro the odd and often misleading way that Metro marks its bus signs. Notes Ms. Wrin: "In our neighborhood WMATA has included on the sign all of the buses which pass by a bus stop even if some of those buses never stop there to pick up passengers. As a bus rider myself and as an acquaintance of visitors to DC who want to ride the buses I have been trying to emphasize to people at WMATA that bus riders only want to know which buses stop to pick up passengers at the place they are waiting. Otherwise you might as well include on the bus stop signs all the Greyhound and Trailways and various charter buses that pass by that sign. It's just as absurd."

Metro, in response, points out that it has been seeking federal funds to improve its bus markers in such a way as to include telephone information service, time tables, guide maps and other facts. It also says that some of the routes listed on bus signs do pick up passengers during non-rush hours. In a letter to Ms. Wrin, William Herman, Director of Metro's Office of Planning, said "To spell out on the sign 'alighting only' or 'boarding only' as would be applicable to routes P7 and Q7 was ruled out by space constraints and by cost. You may have noted that space on the flag portion of the sign available for display of route numbers is limited and to add such wording would require much of the space and would detract from the general appearance of the sign. The cost constraint would appear to be minimal since each letter or number costs 35¢. However, when the number of letters required is multiplied by the number of signs where such lettering would be desirable and multiplied again by 35¢ the cost becomes prohibitive." It seems to us, however, that Metro could save a few of the dollars its spending on its Phase I subway run in order to provide bus riders with decent information.

THE LATEST PLAN FOR the site of the defunct Marjory Webster Junior College is the purchase of the multi-million dollar property by the International School of Law. Representatives from the school, planners, an architect and a lawyer met with the Neighbors Inc. board and interested community members on March 10. In their presentation the school brought out the following points:

- The school will begin with some 500 students and by 1980 it is

... (Please turn to page 11)



THIS photo of last year's Market Day is to remind you that the annual event for the benefit of Friendship House takes place on May 2 from noon to 6 pm on Market Row, north of 7th & Penna. Ave. SE. Featured will be craftsmen, children's activities, live entertainment, a sidewalk cafe, bake sale and household treasures. Admission is free.

Code Program Coming to the Hill

MIMI UPMEYER

The Department of Housing and Community Development is working with community groups and residents of Near SE to determine which 2 to 8 block area in the neighborhood will become eligible for rehabilitation loans under the Neighborhood Improve-

ment Program. According to Janet Gordon, neighborhood commissioner, the area will be bounded by 14th Street, SE on the west, 19th Street, SE on the east, East Capitol Street on the north and the freeway on the south. Single member commissioners

in the affected area will begin holding community forums on May 1st. Ms. Gordon chairs the committee of the Near SE Neighborhood Commission which will tell people about the program. "A lot of people have problems with mandatory code enforcement. Restoration is going on in this area; people are being displaced. This program might increase pressures to have them moved. People don't know if they can afford the repairs." Ms. Gordon said that anyone interested in serving on the NIP committee should call her at 544-7649 (home) or 739-4712 (work).

According to DHCD, the program is designed to expand housing inventory, discourage abandonment and encourage home ownership in older "blighted" neighborhoods by enabling low income property owners, both occupants and investors, to afford rehabilitation of their property. The program combines housing code enforcement with publically and privately funded financial assistance in the form of below market interest rate loans to "owner-occupants" with adjusted incomes of less than \$18,000; market rate loans for those with incomes over \$18,000; and low interest loans for investor-owners of lower-income rental housing.

Friendship House has responded to the plan with a paper outlining their concerns about some aspects of the program:

- Friendship House believes that at least in its first year the program should be limited to home owner occupants. "Investor-owners may also desire low interest loans, but the possibility for abuse and the realities of inflating operating costs make it unlikely that investor-owned property will be maintained for use by lower-income people for any significant time period. In Capitol East, where market demand has increased property values dramatically, investor-owners should find little trouble obtaining conventional financing for property improvement. This would obviously mean that investor-owned properties would not be available for rent to low income residents. However, the reality appears to be that investor-owners receiving 3% loans with stipulations for rental to low income tenants can too easily escape the rent regulation agreement currently proposed as no meaningful enforcement mechanism exists."

- Secondly, Friendship House objects to mandatory code enforcement for home owners. "Nowhere in the city are landlords subject to strict housing code enforcement...We certainly favor code enforcement, but it seems that landlords should be the primary focus...for their negligence affects a greater number of city residents and historically they have been the major abusers." The paper goes on to suggest that the program be voluntary in the first year to "see whether low income homeowners are willing to secure loans."

- Another concern voiced is to question what procedures will insure community involvement in the selection of the 2 to 8 block areas to be affected by the NIP program and to make it easy for those outside designated areas to obtain loans as well.

- Lastly, Friendship House has

called for the establishment of a citizen oversight committee and a loan committee to "insure community participation and control" without which "the NIP program cannot be valid."

Carroll A. Swanson, Acting Administrator of the Neighborhood Improvement Administration (and formerly with the Federally Assisted Code Enforcement Program in the Trinidad area), said that because he had only recently received the Friendship House paper a couple of days ago, "it would be inappropriate for me to answer any questions until we have a chance to respond formally to Friendship House."

In contrast to the prevailing feeling of skepticism in SE, John Tetrault of Neighborhood Housing Services in Anacostia expressed enthusiasm about the program planned there. NIP is very similar to a program currently being administered by NHS. "Usually code enforcement meant in the past that if you couldn't afford fixing up houses you were kicked out. This is a more sensitive approach. We're quite happy with the fact that

UP 16TH STREET CONT'D

anticipated that the student body will be 780 full-time and 200 part-time students. It is anticipated that no more than 500 students will be on the campus at one time.

- The school wants to build parking spaces for 200 cars and supports residential permit parking.

- The school will make modifications to interior of buildings only.

- Near 1980 the school will seek permission to build a library on top of an existing parking lot with parking underground.

- The school is seeking special exception for a campus plan from BZA.

A committee has been set up to meet with the school over the coming weeks (NEIGHBORS INK)

OPPOSITION has developed in recent weeks throughout the Neighbors Inc. area to the proposed Falkland tract redevelopment in the area bordering the DC line. Councilmember

Arrington Dixon has expressed alarm and strong objections to the massive rezoning and development plans for the tract, a 17-acre area on both sides of East-West Highway between 16th Street and Colesville Road. The redevelopment would produce a residential and commercial complex. It would be adjacent to North Portal Estates, Shepherd Park and Colonial Village.

Petitions have been circulating calling for the halt of the redevelopment. Opponents assert that if implemented the Falkland complex will result in substantial increases of population density, traffic congestion and will impose an unbearable strain in the existing sewage system in the immediate area. At a hearing in February, Dixon, Neighbors Inc. representative Evelyn Wrin and Ted Prahinski testified against the rezoning (NEIGHBORS INK)

Neighbors Inc. is holding an open house at Greg and Sarah Williams, 6808 6th, NW on May 7 beginning at 9 pm. BYOL. Info: 829-1547.

the community has targeted the Fairlawn area as we don't have the resources to do the whole area. It's a boost to our program to get the city to come in." Tetrault's criticisms of the program centered around its slowness in getting started and the fact that although there have been a number of public hearings and more are scheduled, citizens were not involved early enough in the planning process.

Ike Miller, Assistant Task Force Coordinator for NIP in SE, said he expects the program to begin in July, but that "no decisions have been made as to specific locations and the planning phase is still open to further discussion with the communities and to further refinements."

NAYLOR-DUPONT

A STUDY prepared by David Shaw, a Naylor Dupont resident who works for the Census Bureau, concludes that the 19,000 people who live in the area pay \$10 million annually in city taxes and \$16 million in federal taxes. Shaw's study is a model that demonstrates how the figures were derived from readily available data and could be emulated by other communities. For information call Shaw at 583-4765.

THE Naylor Dupont Community Information Project has prepared an information packet that includes local census data, addresses and phones of important organizations and churches, and meeting dates of groups.

CIRCLING THE CIRCLE

ACCORDING to the Washington Post DC Police Chief Maurice Cullinane has agreed to increase the number of policemen in Spanish-speaking areas of the city. The agreement came after a meeting with the chief by a delegation of Latino residents. The Latino Task Force on Crime and Justice asked for more Spanish-speaking policemen, a latino advisory

Non-profit community groups can publish newsletters or ads in the Gazette at one-third off our normal ad rates. Copy must be camera-ready and paid in advance. Full page: \$30. Half page: \$15. Quarter page: \$7.50. Deadline: third Tuesday of the month.

News announcements for our neighborhood section should be kept to one page double-spaced and submitted to the Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2) DC 20009 by the third Tuesday of the month.

board and bilingual dispatchers on the 911 emergency line. According to a spokesman of the task force 30 women have been raped in latino areas of the city in the last two months.

ALL Soul's Church is holding a May Day Marketplace on May 1 starting at 10 am. All sorts of items will be sold.

A ZONING hearing will be held on May 5 at 7 pm in Room 11A of City Hall on a proposed zoning change from SO to C3B at 1800 Massachusetts Ave. The proposed site comprises approximately 10,000 square feet.

WEST OF THE PARK

A COUPLE of hundred interested citizens turned out for a hearing on the proposed new advanced high school planned for Gordon next year. There was both support and criticism for the project. Many Northwest schools have been without a neighborhood high school since the conversion of Western High School into the Ellington School for the Arts. To parents from these schools the plans for a senior high at Gordon seem very attractive. There are, however, a number of problems that have been raised. Some parents from feeder schools to Wilson High are concerned that there will not be space available at the advanced high school for their children or that teachers will be drained from Wilson. Others have suggested that it is wrong to have the city's one elite high school in nearly all white Ward Three. Although the planners of the new high school expect to have a fair number of spaces to be available to city-wide applicants on an open admission basis after the needs of the feeder schools have been taken care of, some suspect the demand from the neighborhood will be so great that the number of these city-wide spaces will be less than predicted. Another problem that has been raised is: what happens to children from the feeder schools who do not meet the high requirements of the new high school? Also, there is a question of whether an open admissions policy is preferable to a more restrictive admissions program for this type of school. The decision on these questions is now before the school board and the superintendent.

GEORGETOWN University has opened a family center at 4380 MacArthur Boulevard to provide family therapy, training and research. The project will be run by the University's Department of Psychiatry.

A GENERAL meeting for all delegates of the Wisconsin Area Corridor Committee will be held on May 6 at 8 pm at the Second District police headquarters on Idaho Ave, NW. The topic of the meeting will be "Citizen Initiated Planning." Representatives from the Dupont Circle Community Association and the Upper Northeast Coordinating Council will discuss

their experiences in planning. There will also be an update on the McLean Gardens zoning case and the request for a sectional development plan for the area surrounding McLean Gardens which was recently rejected by the Municipal Planning Office.

THE Cathedral-Cleveland Neighborhood Commission meets May 10 at 8 pm at the Cleveland Park Club, 33rd Pl. and Highland Pl., NW.

THE Cathedral Heights Citizens Assn. is sponsoring a neighborhood sale on Saturday May 1 (rain date: Sunday May 2) to help purchase playground equipment for a new public park at 39th & Newark. The sale will include used children's clothing and toys, white elephants, used furniture, bakery items, arts & crafts, books, pictures and plants. The sale will be held from 10 to 2 in the 3800 block of Cathedral Ave. NW.

A GEORGETOWN University student group has threatened to go to court to attempt to block creation of a residential parking permit program in Georgetown.

NEWSPAPER collection dates in Ward Three this month are May 12 and 26.

THE SAVE THE Old Red Barn Committee has been active working on restoration of the historic building on Belt Rd. Two Saturdays last month were spent building shutters, replacing floor boards and parts of walls. Some 20 people took part in the project. Work is expected to continue on Saturdays. Financial support is also needed and contributions can be sent to NPC 3, 4025 Chesapeake NW, DC 20016. They are tax deductible. A community picnic is planned for sometime in late May. Info: 244-7774.

AN appeal of the rezoning of Friendship Heights under a sectional development plan by 20 commercial landowners has been rejected by the DC Court of Appeals. The Friendship Neighborhood Coalition fought the appeal. If the suit had been successful it might have opened the way to more intensive commercial development and residential use of the Friendship Heights area.

AMONG the Ward Three Neighborhood Commission Chairpersons elected recently are Don Shannon for the Georgetown Commission, Barbara Fant of Wesley Heights for Commission 3-D, Kay McGrath for the Cathedral-Cleveland Commission and Ron Linton for the Forest Hills Commission. Most of the commissioners met last month with Ward Three councilmember Polly Shackleton to discuss problems and procedures in dealing with the city government.

THE Maret School will have an arts center in operation this summer with programs in music, art, drama and dance open to grades 4-9. No previous experience is needed. The center will run from June 21 through July 30 in the mornings. Info: Annette Pierson-Poulard, 483-5710.

THE next meeting of the Cathedral-Cleveland Park Neighborhood Commission will be on May 10 at 8 pm at the Cleveland Park Club, 33rd & Highland Place.

AL Gollin is the newly elected chairperson of the Chevy Chase ANC. Harriet Burg is vice chairperson. The commission will meet the 4th Monday of each month at the Chevy Chase Community Center.

THE AMERICAN University-Friendship ANC has elected Carol Gidley as chairperson. Barbara Ann Mower is vice chairperson. The commission meets again on May 19.

MARET SCHOOL is running a language institute for adults this summer. Course will run June 14-July 30 and will be offered in the morning, afternoon and evening. Each session will be three hours long. The fee is \$250. Info: Mr. Caudeville at 483-5710.

AROUND THE HILL

THE Market Row businessfolks are giving a party at the north end of Eastern Market on May 23 from 5 to 9. Admission: \$3.50. Proceeds will go to provide matching funds for a federal crime prevention grant.

THERE will be a SE Arts Festival May 15-23 sponsored by the Kuumba Learning Center. The festival will include an art happening on May 15 at Gallery Five and a program at the Museum of African Art on May 22 at 2 pm. For information contact Ed Goode at 547-5924 or John Harrod at 584-2892.

THE north curb lane of Constitution Ave between 1st & Md. NE will be closed for six months so the Capitol architect can build a tunnel. No, we don't know what he needs another tunnel for. Constitution will be two lanes east bound and one lane westbound except during the morning rush when it'll be the other way around.

ANOTHER St. Mark's Lunch Theatre will be held on May 5 at St. Marks Church, 3rd & A SE from noon to 2 pm. Featured will be the St. Marks Dance Company. A buffet described as homemade and delicious will be served for \$2.25. Info: 543-0053 or 356-3332.

THE 19th annual Capitol Hill Restoration Society House and Garden tour will be held on May 9. Included on this year's tour are about 10 residences plus a reception at the Marine Commandant's Garden in the 800 block of G Street, SE

THE Friendship Circle is a group at Reformation Church for senior citizens that was organized about 15 years ago. The group meets monthly in the parish hall. Info: Nellie Warner at 544-0944.

THE Capitol Restoration Society has voted to oppose a scheduled two day rock concert at RFK stadium July 30 and 31. In a letter to the stadium armory board CHRS president Tom Simmons cited violence that followed the Jackson Five concert at the stadium in May 1974 and that during Human Kindness Day. The Near Southeast Neighborhood Commission is also looking in the matter and is particularly interested in the police and insurance obligations of the promoter. The Armory Board has refused to disclose the contents of the signed contract.

THE Friendship Community Credit Union may have lost a \$15,000 deposit from the Near SE Neighborhood Commission because the commission's financial committeewoman was unable to get adequate information on opening an account. Ellen Seidman recommended at an ANC meeting last month that the commission place its money instead in one of three downtown banks which has not engaged in redlining, after describing her difficulty in obtaining information from the credit union.

THE Capitol Hill Arts Workshop will hold a summer workshop for children of elementary school age from July 12-July 30. The program which emphasizes all aspects of the arts: visual arts, scene design, acting, dance, and music will be held from 9 to 12:30, Mon.-Fri., with day care available for those children who are in need of it. For further information contact: Sally Crowell, 544-9028 or 543-2081.

In addition, the Workshop will hold an intensive three-week dance-drama program for teens during the same period. Classes for adults in advanced dance with emphasis upon performance will begin in August..

BEST KEPT SECRET. The signs outside say there's a WIN program going on inside, but in reality DHR has moved into the former Civil War hospital building between 9th and 10th SE on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue. And DHR is considering moving out too if the costs for a new roof are too high. Is it possible that near Southeast is going to have another French School fiasco on its hands?

A CEREMONY was held last month to designate the Sewall-Belmont House as a national historic landmark. The house at 144 Constitution Ave, NE was built in 1800. Burned in the war of 1812, the building is now the headquarters of the National Women's Party which conducts tours of the house.

ANTON Wood has been elected chairperson of the Near Northeast Neighborhood Commission. Wood was elected on the third ballot. Wood is a former candidate for delegate on the DC Statehood Party slate and a former Ward Six school board candidate. He is also a contributor to the DC Gazette. Vice chairperson of the commission is Keith Vance. Other top officers include Wade Jefferson, Myrtle Swinton, Robert Willard and Robert Reid. To contact the commission call 547-6290.

Flotsam & Jetsam

IN ANSWER TO your question, yes I have ridden the subway. Unlike many of Metro's most avid supporters and most important officials, this carping critic actually uses the city's mass transit system. Except on Thursdays, when I have the car, and on pleasant days, when I run, I use the bus to get around town. Over the past few weeks I have altered my route in order to take advantage of the first few miles of the Great White Way.

No matter how I mix my modes, it takes me approximately the same time to cover the distance between my home in Cleveland Park and my office at 8th and Mass. NE. It takes an hour on the 96 or 98 bus; a fine line that runs north of downtown thus avoiding the worst of rush hour traffic. If I take a bus from my Capitol Hill office to Union Station, change to the subway and then again at Farragut North to the L Route, it takes about the same time. This is also true if I run to work, although running home takes slightly longer since it is up-



CITY Council Bill 1-255, introduced by Councilman Jerry Moore and set for hearing May 11, would permit the operation of small motorcycles weighing up to 120 pounds, redefined as "motorized bicycles," by 14-year-old children (issued a permit without a driving test), without helmets, on public highways. Such a vehicle may have two or three wheels, and be capable of a speed of 25 miles per hour on level ground. (That is the maximum speed permissible for automobiles on most District highways.)

This appears to be a manufacturer-sponsored bill, for which there is no public need. There seems to be no reason that small motorcycles should not be subject to the same safety and operating rules as large motorcycles.

ROBERT M. HAUSMAN

IN MY article on condominium conversion and the elderly which appeared in last month's Gazette, I neglected to include the Gray Panthers among those community organizations working toward a solution to the conversion problem. The Gray Panthers have been involved from the beginning. In addition, the Citywide Housing Coalition, which has been active and concerned about the conversion dilemma, originally grew from the Gray Panther Housing Committee. My apologies to the Gray Panthers.

ERICA F. WOOD

hill. But it provides an extra incentive to run to realize that a 38-year-old jogging a leisurely 6-8 miles an hour can compete with urban mass transit. The thought should also provide an extra incentive to those planning the city's transit. They might wish to establish as a planning goal a bus system significantly faster than a middle-aged jogger.

Of course, when the subway opens up further along Connecticut Avenue, it will be far the fastest route for me. And I want all those taxpayers who will not be so well served to realize how much I appreciate what they have done for my transportation problems.

That's one of the things about subways. They accomodate, at tremendous public cost, some people very well and many more not at all. For example, 55 % of the Montgomery County workforce works within the county, another 6% works in Prince Georges County. For the most part, the subway will not serve them. Suburban workers driven to the subway in the morning will find Metro a quick way to get to dense downtown employment areas where they can walk from the station to their work. On the other hand, DC workers heading for a job in the suburbs will get a speedy ride to a point that, in most cases, will still be some distance from their final destination in the far less dense areas around suburban stations.

But these days, in the euphoria over Phase I, it is not nice to mention such things. It is implied, by the daily rave reviews in the press, that the fact that the thing works, and is attractive, fast and comfortable, provides sufficient justification for the billions spent and still to be spent.

The fact that the thing works, is attractive and fast and comfortable should, however, come as no surprise. For all that money, you were expecting graffiti-splattered rattletaps? Besides, it is, in no small part, the creation of retired officers of the Corps of Engineers. Metro's upper echelons are sprinkled liberally with ex-members of that military jet set. These kings of the pork barrel have, for decades, been known for well-engineered, gold-plated projects accomplished at extraordinary expense. I no more expected Metro to disappoint me technologically than for the Hoover Dam to burst because of faulty construction.

That's not the point. During the years of preopening controversy, Cody Pfanstiehl, the Metro PR man, would occasionally invite me to come down in the hole with him. I would decline out of my feeling that with the rest of the media so entranced with the technological aspects of Metro someone had to concentrate on what was going on above ground. Everyone was so busy admiring the toy that no one was checking the price tag.

This is still true today. Phase I was primarily a public relations gimmick and it is having its desired

effect. Certainly there was no transportation reason to operate a system at a deficit of \$75,000 a day. You could run more than 400 buses all year free of charge for the annual cost of Phase I. Including the subsidy, Phase I is the most expensive ride you can take in the world -- about ten times as expensive per minute as a rented limousine. Further, despite all the talk about the hoards riding the system, they amount to less than 4% of the capacity of the route.

Even when the system is completed, the per-passenger subsidy will probably be in the neighborhood of \$2 per passenger, barely competitive with a taxicab.

The outlandish costs of the subway, compared to other alternatives, are constantly minimized by Metro, most local officials and the press. The mere suggestion that a study be made of these costs inspired a diarrhetic flow of protest from the media and Metro that included the totally untrue claim that Metro had been studied enough. In fact, there has never been an official study of the relative costs of and benefits of a subway compared with other transit systems. The only studies that have been done have raised serious questions about the feasibility of the project. The federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration has clearly indicated that what it has learned from studying Metro is to discourage other communities from following suit. The city government has had for some time a privately prepared consultant report that demonstrates the advantages of streetcars for DC, but it has failed to act on it. And, most recently, a Library of Congress report, prepared with the assistance of some of the smartest transportation people in the country, produced figures strongly favoring cutting the system down to 41 miles.

It is still not too late to do something about Metro. The system can be cut back to 41 miles, serving the most densely populated areas, thus saving \$2 billion in capital costs and \$50 million in annual operating deficits. According to the Library of Congress study this 58% cutback would only reduce weekday ridership by 35%. We would still be paying a fantastic sum for this luxury system for a small percentage of those who need mass transit, still draining funds that could better be used for improving surface transit, but we wouldn't be compounding the error that we have made these many years -- assuming that the area could get by with a mass transit symbol rather than a mass transit system.



THE DAY AFTER Metro opened, with all the talk about reviving downtown, friend Mike Schrieberman did his part to bring people back to the central business district. He reopened the Warner Theatre with two performances of Emmy Lou Harris and the Earl Scruggs Revue.

You may have missed the news, for it was on the society-entertainment pages of the local dailies, incidental information included in the reviews of the performances. There was no fawning by Wolf Von Eckhardt, no letter from the mayor, no editorial in the Star.

But it was significant nonetheless, especially in such close proximity to the hoopla over the subway. Metro has been moving about 23,000 people around downtown during a day. When Mike opened he brought 3800 people to 13th and E in a few hours. Mike operated at about 17% of Metro's daily load, not bad when you consider that it costs \$375,000 to subsidize Metro for a week and only \$1500 to rent the Warner.

Marion Barry, Dave Clarke, Polly Shackleton and Nadine Winter showed up for the opening and, hopefully, the message that it was possible to give the streets back to the people for less than \$35 million (the current price for removing automobile traffic on a few blocks to the north) or \$75,000 a day got through to them. The way to bring people downtown is to give them a reason for coming. I doubt that I will go out of my way to sit on one of Streets For the People's pretty benches and gaze at contemporary graphics I can find on any pop-top can, but I will come for a good show.

In all the years of fuming over the fate of downtown, it is remarkable how little effort and dollars have been expended to provide space at reasonable cost for the people-attractions: places like the Warner, crazy-quilt blocks of small shops and special services you won't find at Tysons Corner, hotels and restaurants -- action, interest, the unusual.

Instead, Woodies got a subway stop, the potential developers of Pennsylvania Avenue almost got their millions and Theodore Hagans is being subsidized to make a bundle at Ft. Lincoln.

Mike Schrieberman will have to make it on his own. He just doesn't think big enough. But the fact is that a couple of places like the Warner could bring more life to downtown at night than all the subsidized luxury townhouses the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission almost underwrote.

I don't like to go to ribbon-cuttings. But in Mike's case I was happy to make an exception and take part. And when I left the first show and saw 1900 people lined up outside for the second, I smiled and murmured to myself, "Eat your heart out, Nathaniel Owings."



THE one presidential candidate who could have made a real difference has all but dropped out. Counting his delegates, Fred Harris barely made it up to bat, let alone first base, but his effort and his influence may continue.

Charles Mohr of the New York Times said it best: "When Mr. Harris began to campaign in the summer of 1974, there seemed to be several possible outcomes. One of the most likely was that, sooner or later, commentators and politicians would begin to denounce him as a radical. Another possibility was that he would make no significant impact at all and would go unheard.

"Instead, something quite different happened. Rather than 'excommunicating' Mr. Harris, many liberals in his party embraced his populist doctrines.

"Other liberals such as Repre-

sentative Morris K. Udall of Arizona and Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, echoed many of the words and even some of the rhythms of the Harris campaign, particularly his unrelenting attacks on monopolistic power wielded by 'giant corporations,' his appeals for more equality of opportunity and his demands for social justice. Even more conservative candidates, such as Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington and former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia seemed to borrow elements of the Harris gospel.

"In Massachusetts last month, Mr. Harris joked: 'I'm beginning to feel like a ventriloquist; I sometimes feel I can get these other candidates to say anything I want them to.'

For now, however, we are left with a rapidly declining number of choices, mostly unappetizing, the most prominent of which is that latest tribute to the achievement of American marketing genius: Jimmy Carter.

As this is written Udall is still in the race and while he does not stand a chance, a check beside his name at least helps slow the advance of Carter. And there is still the minute chance that Frank Church or Jerry Brown might show some strength. They are both worth considering: Church because he is one of the most intelligent and decent members of Congress and Brown because if you want a one-term governor who's down on Washington he certainly is more appealing than Georgia's peanut-popping powder puff.

Jimmy Carter is the first presidential candidate since John F. Kennedy to have gotten so far on so little. It's a flattering parallel but dangerous, because, first of all, Kennedy's administration was heavy on symbolism and weak on substance, and, secondly, just because we managed to fair pretty well with one presidential pig in a poke is no assurance that history will repeat itself. In such situations you are playing a game of chance and the odds against you do not change the more times you throw.

Of late there have been increasing ruminations in liberal quarters concerning Carter. The liberals' favorite neurosis, guilt, is blooming again and from Georgetown to San Francisco Bay the question is being asked: are we really against Carter just because he is a southerner and he likes to talk about (or with) God?

Such a question might be relevant at some point, but there are a few others that need to be answered first. The practical preliminaries that should be dealt with before delving into psycho-politics includes these:

- List what Carter has done that qualifies him to be president.
- Define, with a reasonable amount of precision, what Carter thinks about each of the major issues of the day. Multiple answers permitted.
- Why has Carter attracted virtually no support from governors who have worked with him? How would you rank him with the nation's present governors?
- What has Carter done since being governor other than run for president?

Once such matters have been taken care of, it is then worth considering whether it is possible to believe in God and in the South without believing in Jimmy Carter.

Carter's basic appeal stems from the fertility of our own imaginations. Because we really know little about him, because he has taken so many different positions on issues, because his political record is so blazingly inconsequential, we are forced to rely upon our hopes. With the aid of brilliant packaging, he has managed to create a mass movement that draws from left, right and center based primarily on an ecumenism of ignorance. When Time Magazine and Andrew Young drool over the same candidate, you know someone's being had. It's nice to hope that it's Time, but we'd have to put our money on Young.

Of course, just because Jimmy Carter reminds us of Elmer Gantry, is being sold like Richard Nixon, says things that aren't true like claiming to be a nuclear physicist or implying that he makes his living as a peanut farmer (he has a Bachelor of Naval Science from Annapolis and is a warehouser and a commodity trader), and speaks out of both sides of his mouth on issues, is no guarantee that he would be a bad president. But it would be nice to find something else to compensate for all this. The best he can come up with is a smile (Fred Harris says he's like a horse trader who'll show his smile but not the horse's) and marshmallow maxims. He seems to operate on the principle enunciated recently by some wise observer that while you can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, that is usually enough.

The discouraging choices of the Democratic Party lead one to consider extraordinary possibilities. One, of course, is to go the third party route. This is appealing on principle but let's face it: there is no progressive third force today that can make a national impact outside of the two parties. This isn't even 1968, when, with a brutal war to end, many of us left the Democratic Party to stew in the blood it had spilled. Even in retrospect, even with Watergate and the Burger court, it still seems a time that demanded an end to compromise, acquiescence and temporizing. There was really no choice other than to say no.

But today we are back within the historical American norms of incompetence, indifference, corruption and repression in high places. They are not desirable norms but, sadly, Americans have only rarely done much better.

We must keep trying but it is hard to see how four more years of Jerry Ford will help the cause. It is perhaps time to fall back on Jim Farley's dictum: just remember, he said, that a Democratic president, no matter how bad, is surrounded by other Democrats while a Republican president, no matter how good, is surrounded by other Republicans.

Which suggests another extraordinary possibility: that we forgive Hubert Humphrey.

To those of us who grew up believing in Captain Marvel, baseball

cards and Hubert Humphrey, Humphrey's willingness to ride shotgun for LBJ as he pursued the Vietnam War was a traumatizing betrayal. It is not easy to forget how bad Humphrey was in those days, saying things like:

"Do you think those demonstrators were organized by some fine little social club? They were organized by international apparatus. Ninety-five percent of the demonstrators are no more Communist than you or I. But the international Communist movement organized it and masterminded it."

The defection of Humphrey, precisely because he was not an ordinary man, because we had come to trust him and because he had carried so many hopes so long, was far more critical than, say, a Harvard faculty member seeking virility in the horrors of Vietnam or the predictable hawkishness of the right. Humphrey could have made a difference but his sense of loyalty and optimism betrayed him and, in turn, us.

There are other things to hold against Humphrey. William Safire, with his strong eye for the pécadillos of liberals, summarized some of them neatly in a recent column:

- Robert Maheu's charge that Humphrey received \$100,000 in \$100 bills from Howard Hughes in a limousine in 1968.

- His former press secretary coping a plea for aiding and abetting illegal corporate donations to his campaign in 1972.

- Humphrey's closest aide seeking improper FBI help at the 1968 convention.

- Trying to keep valuable state gifts that lawfully belong to the government.

- Nearly succeeding in getting a \$200,000 tax deduction for his vice-presidential papers.

- His former campaign manager being indicted.

Bad stuff, reminiscent of Richard Nixon, but there is a difference. Crookedness, deceit and repression were Nixon's frontline weapons. He was ousted not because he had done some things wrong — few politicians would dare impeach for that, but because he had made wrongdoing a whole way of life. He had, in a sense, brought corruption into disrepute. He had overindulged and in doing so had threatened every politician who skimmed a little off the top. He didn't know when to stop.

Even Humphrey's worst critics could hardly make a case of anything worse than skimming. The striking thing about the charges against Humphrey is that they seem atypical of him, rather as in the case of Nixon, to be expected.

Americans generally take a far more realistic attitude towards corruption than commentators and political watchdogs. They tend to treat it as a liability on a balance sheet to be weighed against the assets. They do not, like so much of the press, consider it *prima facie* cause for disqualification.

Of course, it does place a burden on the politicians to produce some additional assets. But this is no problem for Humphrey. Except for the four disastrous years with Johnson, Humphrey has been at the head of the liberal pack. If anyone can survive his

vulnerability it is Humphrey. Humphrey, for all his faults, has done more good than all the other candidates combined.

Back in February I lumped Humphrey as among the undifferentiable Democrats. Compared with Fred Harris it was hard to see the difference. But now with Harris out and growing familiarity with the leading contenders breeding contempt and despair, I realize that my grievances with HHH may not be as great as I thought. I find myself softening on Humphrey.

For one thing, from the beginning of this campaign, all the candidates except Harris and Wallace have been walking in the shadow of Humphrey. Jackson's lunchpail domestic policies is straight Humphrey. Morris Udall is Hubert Humphrey's usual decency and voting record. Jimmy Carter projects his enthusiasm and faith, ersatz though it may be. But none of them have put it all together.

The question inevitably arises: why take half a Humphrey when we can have all of him?

The other night, Bill Moyers, a good man who was also swept into the LBJ-Vietnam vortex and lived to regret it, interviewed Humphrey on public television. It was a moving and impressive hour. The two men tried to help each other put in words how they had gone wrong, why they had and what they had learned from the experience. Humphrey's analysis and his personal depth made the other candidates look like a handful of Mr. Carter's peanuts next to an elephant.

Eschewing self-justification, Humphrey stared the past directly in the face and admitted that it was not a happy sight. This was an extraordinary act for a politician. Far more than an apology for a political gaffe in order to get the critics off his back, it was, as far as could be seen, a sincere indication that he could now share with former supporters and admirers the realization that at a critical moment, Hubert Humphrey had failed.

It may be a bad omen of the time but for the first occasion in ten years Humphrey began looking better again. If the choice was really going to come down to Humphrey with all his faults or a power-hungry self-huckster whose own defense of the Vietnam carnage came from the gut and not from misbegotten compromise, there was really only one way to go.

I wish we had time to find out whether Jerry Brown or Frank Church would be the answer. I wish Morris Udall could have been more than just decent and honest. I wish we could have something better. But as Fred Harris found out, we are not ready for that.

It looks like it's going to come down to a sad choice. But it is not a hard choice.

It comes down to a matter of whether we want a president who is chameleonic (to borrow a fine old word dug up by a reporter recently for a piece on the Carter campaign) and whose lust for personal power seems likely to lead to another feudal administration in the mold of Nixon and Johnson or whether

(Please turn to page 16)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HEARING ON POLICE COMPLAINTS

An important hearing will be held on May 6 at 2 and 7 pm at the city council on the Police Complaint Procedures Act of 1975. The legislation would establish a complaint investigative unit separate from the police department, a citizen review board and procedures for handling complaints. To testify, call Arlene Kelliebrew, 724-8028. Written testimony can also be submitted c/o the council secretary, District Building, 14th & E NW, DC 20004.

PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL: One of the least known benefits a homeowner can take advantage of is deferring the payment of some property taxes until time of sale. You may defer any tax increase over 10% in a single year if your gross income is less than \$20,000 and any tax increase of over 25% in a single year if your gross income is over \$20,000. To get an application form write Tax Deferral, Room 2144, Department of Finance & Revenue, Municipal Center, DC 20001

DC FOOD STAMP COALITION: Recently formed to help fight proposed cutbacks in the food stamp program. The coalition includes the Citywide Welfare Rights Organization, the Gray Panthers, the DC Black Assembly and others. Info: Aaron Martin, 265-6600, 2825 14th St. NW.

GOOD WILL INDUSTRIES EMBASSY TOUR: May 15th. Tour includes embassies of Greece, Cyprus, Venezuela, Iran, Ghana and Sri Lanka as well as the Islamic Center and the residence of the Secretary General of the OAS. \$9. Info: Betsy Forte, 331-8770.

CHILD DAY CARE WEEK: May 8-14. Fun Festival in Lincoln Park on May 8, 10-6 with exhibits, multi-ethnic food, activities for kids. Workshops including a talk by Dr. James Comer, author of "Black Child Care" on May 10. Reception hosted by Walter Fauntroy on May 14. Info: Amit Shah, 783-2364.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP GRANTS: When the city budget is approved more bicentennial grants for neighborhood cleanup campaigns will be available from Operation CURB. \$10,000 has already been distributed. Info: Helen Mitchell, Office of DC Bicentennial Programs, 777 14th NW, 20005. (727-3033)

CONFERENCE ON LEAD: May 14 at American Red Cross, 2025 E NW. Info: 835-4152.

SUNDAY NIGHT TALKS: Members of the Baltimore-based community Jonah House will speak on nuclear arms, the present situation of stockpiling and possible alternatives, May 9, 7 pm, at the Community for Creative Nonviolence, 1329 N NW. Info: 234-9813.

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TZEDEK TZEDEK TALKS: May 2: The Third World and Israel with Barry Rubin, a journalist specializing in Mid-East affairs. May 16: US Involvement in the Middle East 1945-1975 with Ira Silverman, director, Institute for Jewish Policy, Planning and Research. May 30: Effects of US Policy in the Middle East on American Jewry with Arthur Waskow, Institute for Policy Studies. All at Quaker House, 2121 Decatur Place NW beginning at 7 pm.

HOME TEACHING AND SCHOOL-COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COURSES: To be offered this summer by the Home and School Institute. Most are 5-day programs and run about \$175. They are good for three graduate credits. Topics include: "School and Parent-Community Involvement," "Issues in School-Community Relations," "Creating 3-R Materials for the Home," "Leadership Development in School-Community." Courses are given at Trinity or CU. Info: HSI Office, Trinity College, DC 20017 (269-2371)

TREE AND BUSH TRIMMINGS: The Department of Environmental Services requests that trimmings, bagged leaves etc. be placed at your regular point of collection only on Thursdays and Fridays. City regulations require that tree limbs and brush not exceed 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter. Branches should be tied in reasonable sized bundles so they can be handled by the collection crews.

CITY FOOD SYSTEM: June 9-10 at the Washington Hilton. Tuition: \$75. Some scholarships available. Discussion and cause and cures of higher food costs and lower food quality in this city. Info: Community Nutrition Institute, 1910 K, NW, DC 20006. (833-1730)

CATALOGUE OF SUMMER SESSIONS: Available from College of General Studies, George Washington University, 706 20th NW, DC 20052.

THE DC DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION offers three youth care programs free of charge to city residents. Openings are available in the cooperative play program for preschoolers, the day care program and the after school care program. The cooperative play program is for children aged 3 to 5 and uses parents and parent substitutes, to assist a professional teaching staff. The program begins in September at 49 centers. Info: 629-7537. Early registration will be held May 3-4. The day care program is a free full day and year round program for 3-5 year olds for parents who require day care services weekdays 7-7. The program is operated at 20 locations and is available to city residents covered by the Welfare Reform Act. Info: 629-7264. The after school care program is for children 6-14. Registration is held throughout the year. Twelve centers operate from 3:30 to 7:30 pm during the school year and from 9 am to 7:30 pm during the summer. Info: 543-3877.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS: free of charge on Wednesdays and Thursdays through the month of May at the Northwest Service Center, 2433 18th Street, NW, DC. Registered nurses will conduct the screenings on Wednesdays, May 5th thru 26th from 4-6 pm, and Thursdays, May 6-27th, from 10 am to 1 pm. Info: Holly Hy-nick, 332-5520.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM: The DC Public School System announces that the US Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program for children will be available again this summer. Any nonresidential public or private non-profit institution, or residential public or private nonprofit summer camp is eligible to participate in the program. Such an institution or camp must develop a summer food program similar to the national school lunch program and school breakfast program, for children from low-income areas. Camps and institutions must serve nutritious meals to all

children regardless of race, color, or national origin. Where an institution or camp is approved, all meals are to be served free.

Eligible District institutions may apply under the umbrella of the mayor's summer feeding program or apply for direct sponsorship. To apply for the program, write to DC Public Schools, Food Services Branch, 415-12th St, NW, Room 806, DC 2004. Please indicate type of sponsorship desired. Info: Doris Fuller, 724-4088.

VISITORS' SERVICES CENTER: a volunteer organization serving the needs of incarcerated men and women and their families. These tasks are accomplished by trained volunteers responding to requests directly from inmates at the DC Jail, Lorton Reformatory and the Women's Detention Center.

VSC originated in a one-and-a-half room office in the SE Boys Club -- a five minute walk to the Jail, with a handful of volunteers. After five years, VSC has moved into a little green row house and has 80 volunteers.

Inmate requests for VSC services continue to come in at over 500 a month. Because of the increasing demands on VSC, it has a need of more funding. VCS will hold a benefit on May 5th at the Biograph Theatre in Georgetown. Two showings of "Cool Hand Luke" starring Paul Newman will be featured. Show times are 7:00 and 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$7.50 each and can be obtained by calling VSC at 544-2131.

CONFERENCE ON WASHINGTON AREA UNEMPLOYMENT. May 8, 9 am, American University (Ward Building Room #1). Sponsored by the Central Labor Council. Topics include the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act, building a full employment coalition in the Washington area. Donation: \$2/person. Info: 659-8044.

HEARING ON MOTORIZED BICYCLE ACT: Tues May 11 10 am & 2 pm, city council chamber. Proposed bill would subject an operator of a motorized bike to the same rules as those governing the operation and parking of bicycles. It would, however, prohibit the operation of a motor bike on any bike path with the engine going or on any sidewalk. To testify call Gwen Bohlke at 724-8077 before 5 pm Fri May 7. Written statements may be submitted to Council Secretary, District Building, Room 509, 14th & E NW, DC 20004 by May 18.

KOSHER KITCHEN PROGRAMS: Entertainment Saturday evenings. Jacob Schlitt on "Jews in American Labor" on May 2 9 pm. "Women in the Labor Movement" May 9 at 9 pm. UFW Benefit May 3 at 9 pm. For info on these and other programs, call 593-3772.

WASHINGTON BOOK FAIR: Sat May 1 in front of the ML King Library, 9th & G NW 10-3. Most books 25-50¢.

WASHINGTON FREE CLINIC AUCTION & FLEA MARKET. Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW, May 1 11-4. Info: 965-5476.

TENANTS GUIDE TO RENT CONTROL; 25¢ from DC PIRG, PO Box 19542, DC 20036.

WORKPLACE FOR FREELANCE WRITERS: The Workplace Inc. plans to offer individual workspace for part-time freelancers with full office services (secretarial, copying, delivery etc.). An organizational meeting will be held May 5 at 8 pm at 4514 Garrison NW. Info: Jean LeVin at 547-5787 or Beverly Nadel at 362-6387.

SHORELINE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS: NCPC staff report on proposed shoreline policies for DC area now available from the National Capital Planning Commission, 1525 G NW DC 20576.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TAX BOOKLETS: Several new editions of comparative tax tables are now available from the DC Department of Finance and Revenue. Included are "A Compari-

son of Tax Rates in the Washington Metropolitan Area," "Comparison of Major State and Local Tax Burdens in Selected Washington Metropolitan Area Jurisdictions," "Tax Burdens in Washington DC Compared with Those in the Nation's 30 Largest Cities," "Statistics on DC Income," and "Comparison of Selected Tax Rates in DC with Those in the Fifty States."

HOUSE OF RUTH: Described as a "flop house for women," just opened by Dr. Veronica Maz, founder of SOME. She has purchased a large home at 459 Mass. Ave. NW which will sleep fifty. Dr. Maz plans to serve dinner and breakfast and charge \$2 if the person can pay. Furnishings and clothes are needed. Info: 347-9689.

SUPPORTERS OF SILKWOOD OFFICE: Recently opened at the Washington Peace Center, 2111 Fla. Ave. NW, 20008 (234-2000). Karen Silkwood was on her way to meet a New York Times reporter with documents regarding radioactive contamination at Kerr-McGhee where she worked. Her car was hit from behind and the documents were never recovered. Oklahoma authorities ruled twice that the death was accidental. In late 1974, National Public Radio reported that Kerr-McGhee was unable to account for 40 pounds of plutonium. Less than five pounds are required for a bomb. The AEC verified that Kerr-McGhee falsified quality control data, but a federal investigation of Karen's death closed with no details.

COMMUNITY COMPUTER CENTER: Opened in March at 3201 14th NW, the center will provide computer-assisted instruction in math and reading to students and other neighborhood residents. It will also provide computer-aided management for small business people and computerized research in support of community service organizations. The center is a project of Afro-American Datanamics whose executive director is Texiera Nash. Info: 332-4210.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE FOR HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND APARTMENT WORKERS: Goes up from \$2.25 and hour to \$2.80 effective May 22. Employers covered by rent control and unable to pass on the increase may pay \$2.50 and hour. Info: Minimum Wage and Industrial Safety Board, 629-3565.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on Educational Programs: Last Weds. 330 pm

Committee on Student Services and Community Involvement: Last Thurs. 6 pm.

Committee on School Finance: First Tuesday, 730 pm

Committee on Board Operations, Rules, Policies & Legislation: First Thurs, 330 pm

Committee on Capital Improvements: First Thurs., 6 pm

Committee of the Whole on Personnel: Monday before third Weds, 130 pm.

FLOTSAM CONT'D

we would prefer a president who understands that the office is an institutional one and not personal property and whose decisions, even if not to our liking, will at least primarily reflect a search for political consensus rather than an addiction to self-aggrandizement.

There should be more to the choice than that but if there isn't, as appears to be the case, then I find it far easier to bury the hatchet with Humphrey than to take a flyer with a candidate described by an Atlanta editor who has watched him longer than any of us as one of the biggest phonies in American politics.

- SAM SMITH